SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: What are the market forces? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Let us take one example. Shri Chaturvediji can quote one example. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Ultimately, it is only by the biding process that the best value is arrived. (*Interruptions*).The hon. Member may keep in mind that this is a transaction which is entered into by a transparent bidding process. Ultimately, the values are arrived at by bidding process. It is a success story in as much as all jobs have been saved and an attempt has been made to revive a loss-making unit. As far as the third question is concerned, with regard to NTC, the hon. Prime Minister has constituted a group of Ministers, headed by the finance Minister, to go into the question as to what is to be done with the NTC units. That group of Ministers is going into this question and is likely to submit a report to the hon. Prime Minister soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we have taken 55 minutes for this question. Question No. 2 Shri Kuldip Nayyar.

Outsiders Engaged for News Programmes and Current Affairs

*2. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many outsiders, both individuals and companies, have been contracted for current affairs and news programmes during the current year till date;

(b) their names; and

(c) the amount of money paid to each one of them of per month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Names of Companies/Producers/Individual anchors who have been contracted for news and current affairs programmes on the DD-1, DD-2 , DD International and DD News Channel as on 30.06.2000, Alongwith their programmes, periodicity of their Programmes and monthly payments being made to them are as follows

S.No.	Name of Company/ Producer	Name of Programme	Periodicity of the programmes	Monthly Payment
1.	M/s. Approach Inc.	Nishan	Weekly	2,60,000/-
2.	M/s. Asian News International	Desh Duniya	Weekly	14, 10,000/-
		India's World	Weekly	
		Ghoomta Aina	Weekly	
		Night Cap	Daily	
3.	M/s. B.A.G. Films Pvt. Ltd.	Rozana	Six days per week	22,00,000/-
4.	M/s. Eight Days A Week Production	Satya	Weekly	5,00,000/-
5.	M/s. Heart Care Foundation of India	Mind Body	Weekly	8,00,000/-
6.	M/s. IMAK	Cool Talk caffe	Thrice a week	10,40,000/-
7.	M/s. In T.V.	Talk Back	Weekly	5,20,000/-
		Cross Fire	Weekly	No payment (sponsored)
8.	M/s. Independent Media Pvt. Ltd.	Seven to Nine	Five days a week	55,00,000/-
9.	M/s. Jigyasa	Nishan	Weekly	2,60,000/-
10.	M/s. Media Intermix Pvt. Ltd.	Face the Nation	Weekly	6,00,000/-
11.	M/s. Mediart	Mindscape	Weekly	3,20,000/-
12.	M/s. Moving Pictures	India Online	Weekly	5,70,000/-
13.	M/s. Moving Pictures Private Limited	India This Week	Weekly	No Payment (sponsored)
14.	M/s. News and Entertainment TV	Legal Balance	Weekly	5,00,000/-
15.	M/s. Prosconium Productions	Centre Stage	Weekly	8,00,000/-
16.	M/s. Relative Media	Advantage	Weekly	6,00,000/-

S.No.	Name of Company/ Producer	Name of Programme	Periodicity of the programmes	Monthly Payment
17.	M/s. River Bank Studio	Earth Matters	Weekly	14,00,000/-
18.	M/s. Samyak Communications	Nishan	Weekly	2,20,000/-
19.	M/s. Shelly Suman Productions	Imaging Science	Weekly	10,60,000/-
20.	M/s. Signet Communications	Khoj Khabar	Weekly	No. Payment (sponsored)
21.	M/s. Teamwork Films	Cool Talk Caffe	Thrice a week	10,40,000/-
22.	M/s. Trans World International	Sports News	Daily	36,00,000/-
		Sports Time	Daily	
23.	M/s. TV Live Pvt. Ltd.	Nishan	Weekly	2,60,000/-
24.	M/s. TV Today	Subah Aaj Tak	Five days a week	No payment
		Aaj Tak	Daily	(Sponsored)
25.	M/s. United Television	Two's Company	Weekly	7,90,000/-
		Talk Back	Weekly	
		The Big Question	Weekly	
26.	M/s. World Report	World view India	Weekly	10,00,000/-
27.	M/s. TV Live	Ankhon Dekhi	Six days a week	No payment
		Dopahar Ankhon Dekhi	Daily	(Sponsored)
28.	Ms. Mrinal Pandey (Anchor Hindi)	—	—	1,50,000/-
29.	Shri Nalin S. Kohli (Anchor English)	—	—	60,000/-
30.	Shri Rahul Dev (Anchor Hindi)	—	—	1,50,000/-
31.	Shri Sunit Tondon (Anchor English)	—	—	75,000/-

SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: The payments, if my arithmetic is correct, comes to Rs. 2,30,00,000 every month. May I know from the Minister—see, the companies don't mean much to me—who are the three individuals who are getting the maximum programmes, in order of their earnings per month. *(Interruptions)*. Is there a similar list for regional stations also? And how are these people selected?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know about how the people are selected.

SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: No; who are they?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I have, in fact, given the names of all the companies. As far as the individuals are concerned, I have a list of about 17 to 18 people. *(Interruptions).* I can certainly find out as to who the Directors of the Company are and send the list to you. There is no difficulty. But let me just clarify.

As far as each programme is concerned, if you kindly see, there are some programmes which are given on a weekly basis, for half-an-hour and one hour. Therefore, the commission charges which are to be paid will be a particular amount. then, there is one programme by Mr. Sayeed Naqvi's which is telecast once a week, and it has to be shot mostly outside India. In such a case, the charges will be higher, as the costs are also higher. Then, there are some programmes that are telecast for 1-1/2 hours everyday. In that case also, the cost of production will be higher. Therefore, the amounts to be paid actually depend on the duration of the programme. So far as the point, as to who are the Directors of the Companies, is concerned, I will certainly send you a list. But let me just clarify. Out of the list of 27 companies to whom these programmes have been allotted — I have tried to frame a list as to who are the prominent individuals to whom these programmes have been given, which you also wanted to know — if I read out some of the names, you will find that it includes, in fact, some of the most outstanding names in the print and electronic media of our country. Besides, an effort has been made by the News and Current Affairs Department to try and see that they bring in only the best talent available. For example, Shri Sayeed Naqvi, Shri Karan Thapar, TV Today of India Today, TWI, which is one of the best sports bulletin...

SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: But I have asked only about the top three programmes.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am giving it. Shri Rahul Dev, Shri Sunil Mehta, Shri Vir Sanghvi, Shri Rajat Sharma, Shri Deepak Chopra, Shri Rajiv Shukla, Shri Chandan Mitra, Ms. Nalini Singh. These are some of the outstanding anchors. So far as the point as to who the Directors of the Company are, I will certainly find out the list of Directors and send the same to the hon. Member.

SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: I would also like to know how they are selected.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: There are two methods of selection. First is, there are a large number of producers and production houses which approach Doordarshan on their own. Secondly, there are some outstanding producers and anchors whom Doordarshan approaches on its own. Once the programme samples are prepared, they will go to a Preview Committee. The selection is made after the Preview Committee clears the programme.

SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the top three programmes. My second question is, he is on record that there are too many people in the I&B Ministry, there are too many people in Doordarshan, who are engaged in such activities.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: As you have asked for the top three programmes and their anchors to whom the highest payment is being made, I would say that one programme, which is given at item no. 8, is the daily breakfast show, whose anchor is Mr. Rajat Sharma, and it is telecast for 1-1/2 hours everyday. The second programme is given by Transworld International, which is one of the best companies preparing sports programmes. They are preparing a daily sports bulletin, for half-an-hour everyday. The third programme, whose producer is Anuradha Prasad, is given by BAG Films Ltd. This programme is also telecast every day. Therefore, three highest payments are made to the people who are doing a 1-1/2 hours and a 1/2 an hour programme everyday.

SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: But you did not tell me as to whether regional stations do have such a list.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Certainly, I will prepare a regional list and send it to the hon. Member.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: सर, मेरा एक प्रश्न है, (व्यवधान)... जो लिस्ट है, वह देनी चाहिए। (व्यवधान)... इसमें राशि की बात है, एमाउंट की बात है। (व्यवधान)...

श्री अरुण जेटली: सर, मैं यहां यह स्पष्ट कर दूं कि मैंने जो लिस्ट दी है वह प्रश्न से अधिक है। उसमें मैंने हर कम्पनी का नाम दिया है, कार्यक्रम का नाम दिया है, कार्यक्रम की डयूरेशन दी है और एमाउंट भी दिया है।

SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: You said that there were too many employees in Doordarshan and AIR who are engaged in such activities. Then why are

you giving it to outsiders? Why are you not encouraging you own talented people?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I am grateful to the hon. Member for having made this suggestion. Encouragement of in-house programming is one of the important items on the agenda of Prasar Bharti, which has been taken up. As far as news and current affairs programmes are concerned, approximately, besides news itself, 1/3rd of the programmes are now being made in-house. In fact, the Expert Committee, which we appointed, also suggested encouraging in-house programming. The rates for some of the programmes, which had earlier been given only to outside producers, have been reduced. Besides, in some of the cases, we have taken the same anchors, but made in-house production so that we are required to make payment only to the anchor and not to the company from which the programme has been taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Proposal for opening of special employment exchange for handicapped

*4. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar has sent proposal to the Central Government regarding opening of special employment exchange or special cells in some of the general employment exchanges for handicapped under Centrally Sponsored scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir: A proposal was sent by the Government of Bihar, *vide* their letter dated 28.10.1999 for setting up 11 Special Cells within the Normal Employment Exchanges at a total cost of Rs. 37,88,400/-.

(b) and (c) A reply was sent to the Government of Bihar on 31.01.2000 stating that their proposal for setting up Special Cells could not be considered